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No. 1.

LETTERS FROM THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE
TO HON. HENRY LAURENS, 1777-1780.

(Continued from the October number.)

[44]

Addressed:

private

to

the honorable henry Laurens esq.

Valley forge camp eight june 1778

dear Sir

I had the honor of writing you yesterday my sentiments upon the new behaviour of monsieur de connway, towards you, and towards every body—you will be after this surpris'd that I write again in his favor—you would be more so had you seen the letter I receive from him—but he is an officer in the french service, and much known by a friend of mine, and let him be mad with you, ungrateful with me, I schall try to be of some what useful to him—however as it was impossible to adress myself to you, I desire c¹⁰¹ lee to mention my name in case that gentleman was spoken of

in Congress—I am very certain of not succe'ding, but I will say at least that I did not neglect him.
with the highest Regard I am

Yours
the M^{rs} de Lafayette

Endorsed: Marquis delafayette
8th June 1778
Rec^d 16th

[45]

Valley forge camp 12 june 1778

dear Sir

I can not write to york town without asking my good friend M^r henry Laurens how he does, and which are its present ideas upon the arrival of the commissioners appointed for to currupt a part of the continent, deceive the other, and *if possible* enslave the whole as far as it is consistent with the present state of affairs. if you were to ask my private opinion I would refer you to the earl of abington's speech, as the candid sentiments of a man who being at the fountain head may give us some knowledge of the true idea they have in parliament of theyr Ridiculous and deceitfull commission for to grant *pardons* to the *faithfull* subjects of george the third. I understand they have sent five commissioners, ambassadors, or whatever you'll be pleas'd to call them.

Lord *howe* is a very brave man, a good seaman, who distinguish'd himself at s^t kas last war, who in the civil way is no body, and who will not shine in his political commission

Sir *henry Clinton* is a military pedant, somewhat blunderer and nothing more.

governor johnstone is a sensible man, but a dangerous one—his being in the opposition till this moment has made him popular—but his being chosen for a commission where many Ministerial blunders are to be brought to the Light, is a certain mark that he has been corrupted by his most excellent Majesty for how many guineas I do'nt know but I hope to learn from my friends in england one day or other.

the others are unknown to me, and unknown to the world but for some books made by themselves or theyr friends, which I do'nt know the title of—I have been told that the secretary has some years ago deceiv'd, and Ruin'd a young Lady in this country, but now he wants to work upon a larger scale.

I have reserv'd the earl of *carlisle* for the last—he is a fine gentleman, very well powderd, and a man of *bon goust*—he began by Ruining his own fortune, and wanted to get the Reputation of a man belov'd by the ladies—While I was in england he was much in love with a young fair dutchess and pretty ill treated by her—however he is a good poet.

I do'nt understand how they did send those commissioners with such instructions as will immediately discover theyr scheme of treachery, deception, tyranny, vengeance, corruption, and indeed of every Rascality under the fairest names—that word of pardon is not only *absurd* but very insolent—ah my dear sir, never suffer such a people to approach you—look down upon them and when ever they'll want to come near in order to corrupt and deceive, keep them alwaïs at a distance, and never suffer a word to be spoken, or a letter to be written to them till *independency will be acknowledged by parliament, the troops with drawn, even from canada*, for Canada is necessary to the liberties of America.

do'nt you look upon it as a great mark of confidence from france that they are not in a greate hurry to be represented in this country—they are convinc'd that gratefulness will conquer any old prejudice, that they eyes of the people are oppened, and every thing proves that my country means nothing but what is your advantage and true interest.

I am very glad Ms *Carmichale* is arriv'd—he is a sensible, amiable, virtous, and charming gentleman on every Respect—he wants I believe to be in the army and I hope he will be employed there. to his own agrement, as I am

sure it will turn to the good of the service. if he has brought some french papers be so good as to send them to me

with the highest Regard I have the honor to be

dear Sir

Your most obedient servant
the M^{rs} deLafayette

will you be so good as to give me your opinion upon what will be done by congress in consequence of my letter concerning monsieur touzard, colonel Armand, and the chevalier de fayolles.

Endorsed: Marquis delafayette

12 June 1778 Rec^d. 16th—

Ans^d. 19th—

[46]

Camp 23^d june 1778

dear Sir

I beg leave to acquaint the h^{on}^{ble} Congress of the arrival of M^r le M^{rs} de vienne a gentleman who is coming from france to serve in theyr army and desires to be in my family as a volunteer if it is acceptable to them—M^r Carmichall who came over with him may give you any intelligence you can wish about his family and character—I will only say that both are Reccommandatn, that he is the Son of a much Reputed general officer, and that he is himself a captain since twenty years, was twenty four years in the service, made four campaigns, has now the commission of Major of dragoons, and will probably get a Regiment in a schort time in france—he asks nothing, and only wish some Rations for horses, servants, and a waggon might be allowed to him, as it is impossible to get those things by other means—he do'nt want any other expence of his to be spoken of, and if ever Congress thinks his services may be useful, (as he is a reputed officer of dragoons) he may accept what is propos'd but never trouble with any demands.

I beg leave to join here my voice to this of all lovers of liberty, all good americans, all true frenchmen, in ex-

pressing my admiration and my pleasure at the noble, spirited, and ever to be prais'd answer of Congress, to the deceitfull and some what impertinent adress of the British commissioners—that afforded me a double satisfaction as I felt it in a double capacity.

with the highest Regard I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

the M^{rs} de Lafayette

Endorsed: Marquis delafayette

23 June 1778—

[47]

Camp 23^d june 1778

dear Sir

as it is very late and I want to be up at one o'clock for putting in motion the part of the army I am intrusted with I will only aknowledge the reception of y^r late favor, in which some french letters were inclos'd—they brought me the most pleasing accounts of my friends, tho' they were as late as january last—I heartly thank you for forwarding them with such a kind exactness.

I will not tell you any news as you get them from the fountain head—I hope this Retreat of theirs will not prouve useless to us, and if opportunities are offered the country we are in is already a standing proof that gⁿ washington knows how to Make use of 'em—C^l^{oi} john Laurens has been to reconnoitre a ground with gⁿ portail.

when gⁿ m^kintoch will want ch^{valer} de failly &c. tell him that they wait for his orders and are very impatient to join him—be so good as to forward the affair of M^r touzard and c^l^{oi} Armand.

inclos'd I send you a letter for Congress to let them know the arrival of a french gentleman of a remarkable family and of reputation as an officer of dragoons, who desires to serve as a volunteer in my family.

the Answer of Congress to the commissioners is a fine piece.

good night to you, my dear sir, with the most sincere affection and Regard I have the honor to be

Yours

The M^{rs} de Lafayette

Endorsed: Marquis delafayette

23 June 1778

Rec^d. 5th—July

(To be continued in the next number of this magazine.)